Circular Letter #31.

Sept. 12, 1922.

Instructions in English.

GOVERNMENT OF PORTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
SAN JUAN

ADDRESS ALL OFFICIAL
COMMUNICATIONS TO THE
COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION
SAN JUAN, P. R.

September 12, 1922.
Circular Letter No. 31.

To Supervisors of Schools.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

INSTRUCTION IN ENGLISH

You are hereby instructed to give your careful attention to chapter "English", pages 29 and 30 of the Professional Bulletin.

"Teachers in all grades above the fourth will use English as a medium of instruction in all subjects except physiology in the fifth grade and the Spanish language itself. Frequent complaints have reached the department to the effect that the teachers do not teach in English, to the detriment of the pupils. Supervisors and teachers are hereby reminded that as American citizens the pupils of the public schools have a right to learn the national tongue. They can not learn it at home. The school is the only place where they can acquire English effectively through the training of the ear as well as of the vocal organs. They will learn to use English by using it, not merely by translating it into another language. If teachers are unable or unwilling to give instruction in English in academic subjects, except in Spanish and physiology in the fifth grade, as stated above, the fact should be reported promptly to this department. Both teachers and pupils are urged to use English outside of the classroom as well, in order to acquire the necessary practice. Not only should supervisors use English in all official documents addressed to teachers, but in their visits to any schoolroom they should not use Spanish in talking to English graded teachers unless the subject being taught is the Spanish language itself. If this emphasis is not given, teachers neglect to use and subsequently lose the use of correct English.

Drill classes in English for teachers are very effective. Classes in professional reading also afford an excellent opportunity for practice in the use of English. Both should be organized and carried

on regularly. Do not let a single day pass without reading some well-selected piece of good English (preferably professional literature)."

Information in connection with the professional reading course for teachers will be sent out shortly.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Juan B. Huyke,
Commissioner of Education.

FV/ec.